

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**ANNUAL REPORT
SAWTOOTH HATCHERY
1992**

**Prepared by:
William R. Stutz, Fish Culturist**

INTRODUCTION

Sawtooth Hatchery is a Lower Snake River Compensation Plan hatchery, and has been in operation since 1985. Although the primary goal of the hatchery is to produce spring chinook salmon and trap and ship eyed steelhead eggs, we initiated a program in 1990 to stock catchable rainbow trout.

Rainbow trout, averaging 10 inches in length, are transported in from Hayspur Hatchery for redistribution. Because Hayspur was anticipating a water shortage during the summer of 1992, they shipped all rainbow trout requested (61,347) between March and June. We reared the fish to size at Sawtooth Hatchery.

We planted 61,347 rainbow trout in the Sawtooth Valley and the Stanley Basin. The majority of the fish (43,200) were planted in the Salmon River between Hell Roaring Creek and Thompson Creek, while the remaining 18,174 fish were planted in tributaries to the Salmon River and several smaller accessible lakes in the area (Table 1). The stocked fish averaged 10 inches in length.

Stocking was started on May 27, 1992 and continued through September 3, 1992. We followed a planting schedule devised earlier in the year that was similar to schedules in the past. For planning purposes, the river was divided into four sections (Table 2). Stocking sites were determined beforehand based on accessibility to the public, ease of planting, and habitat requirements of the fish. Some of the later plants in Stanley Lake Creek were cut out because of warm temperatures and low water.

Sawtooth Hatchery personnel were also involved with stocking cutthroat trout and helping with a study initiated by Gregg Mauser (Idaho Department of Fish and Game) to determine dispersion of our planted trout. Catchable cutthroat trout were stocked in the upper Salmon River and several tributaries in hopes of reestablishing our state fish in those areas (Table 3). The data from Gregg Mausers' study has not been analyzed.

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Table 1. Planting sites and numbers of catchable rainbow trout stocked in the Sawtooth Valley and Stanley Basin during May-September 1992.

Site	Number	Site	Number
Perkins Lake	1,812	Yankee Fork Ponds & River	
Pettit Lake	2,937	Yankee Fork Ponds & River	4,250
Little Redfish Lake	1,500	Valley Creek	4,324
Cape Horn Lake #2	312	Stanley Lake Creek	1,000
Josephus Lake (lower)	812	Salmon River	43,200
Broken Arrow Pond*	200		
Alturas Lake*	1,000		

*Not usually planted by Sawtooth Hatchery.

Table 2. Boundaries for Salmon River sections.

Section 8 -	Hellroaring Creek bridge downstream to Buckhorn day use area.
Section 7 -	Sunny Gulch campground downstream to Valley Creek.
Section 6 -	Valley Creek downstream to sunbeam.
Section 5 -	Sunbeam downstream to Thompson Creek Bridge.

Table 3. Fish size, locations, and numbers of cutthroat trout plants.

Location	Number	Length
Upper Salmon River	1,400	5"-12"
Smiley Creek	1,600	5"-12"
Pole Creek	1,400	5"-12"
Frenchman Creek	1,600	5"-12"

